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REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 15, 2006, claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 14, and 15 are independent claims from which all other claims depend therefrom. Claims 1 and 14 are herein amended solely for clarification reasons.

An amended Figure 4 is herewith provided.

The Office Action states that the limitation "stationary rotation" is unclear. Claims 1 and 14 are herein amended to alter the recited limitation and to provide clarity.

The Office Action states that the term "field" is misspelled in line 4. Claim 1 is herein amended to correct the spelling error.

The Office Action further states, with regards to claim 3, that the limitation of "said key actuated device is a key" is unclear. Specifically, the Office Action states it is unclear how a key is a device, which is actuated by a key. Applicants submit that, in review of the present application, one can readily see that the key actuated device, such as the key actuated device 58, is a device that it rotated or actuated. In the specification, it is stated that the key actuated device may be a key or a key lock assembly component. See paragraph [0041] of the present application. In stating that the key actuated device is a key, the Applicants are not stating that a key is actuated by a key, but rather are simply claiming what the "key actuated device" may be, as stated in the specification. Applicants believe the claimed terminology is clear, especially in view of the specification.

Claims 1-2, 9-11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,958,551).

Claim 1 is herein amended to recite the limitation of the field altering device being rotated about an axis extending through the field altering device. This provides clarity with regards to what was meant by "stationary rotation."

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The magnet 26 of Janssen rotates on the lock cylinder about the center of the keyway 20. The magnet 26 does not rotate about an axis passing through the magnet 26. Thus, Janssen fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Since claims 2 and 9-11 depend from claim 1, they are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as that provided for claim 1.

Claim 15 recites the limitation of actuating a keyed actuated device to alter a magnetic field generated by a position sensor. The Office Action states that Janssen teaches generating a position signal indicative of position. Regardless of whether this is true, the sensor switch 30 of Janssen does not generate a magnetic field. The sensor switch 30 merely reacts in response to the presence of the magnet 26. Thus, Janssen fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 15.

Claims 3-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen in view of Kokubu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,026).

Since claims 3-8 and 12-13 depend from claim 1, they are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen in view of Kito (U.S. Pat. No. 6,703,721).

The Office Action states that Janssen fails to teach a key that has a transponder associated with the key. However, the Office Action states that Kito provides such teaching. Applicants submit that although Kito discloses a key having a transponder, the transponder is different than the transponder claimed. In Kito the transponder is used to transmit an immobilizer identification code, which allows for ignition. The claimed invention, on the other hand, uses the transponder to alter a magnetic or electric field through movement, rotation, or actuation of the transponder. This movement is used to determine position information. This is substantially different than that provided in Kito. Although Kito discloses a lock system, the system of Kito is different, functions differently, and provides a different result. As such, Kito is unrelated or irrelevant with respect to the claimed invention.

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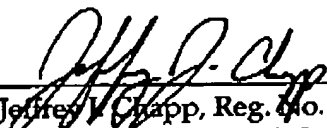
Applicants further submit that it would not have been obvious to combine and modify the transponder of Kito with the assembly of Janssen to arrive at the claimed invention. Neither reference discloses the detection of key position through actuation of a transponder on a key. Janssen does not disclose a transponder and the transponder of Kito does not alter a magnetic or electric field. In addition, neither reference discloses a sensor for detection of a magnetic or electric field change as the result of key and transponder movement.

Therefore, claim 14 is also novel, nonobvious, and is in a condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all the rejections are now overcome. The Applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.



Jeffrey V. Chapp, Reg. No. 50,579
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500

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